Brethren Evangelist

"I Am the Way, the Truth and the Life."—Jesus

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Editorial

The Annual for 1898

We still have on hand quite a large number of the Annual for this year. The price is ten cents, or one dollar per dozen. When renewing your subscription include a remittance for the Annual. Pastors can readily dispose of one or two dozen, if they will mention the matter to their people from the pulpit. We also have on hand last year's Annual which contains a record that will be useful for years to come. A digest of all the National Conferences held since 1882 appear in the 1897 issue. Few of our people have a record of the doings of the church in its annual conferences, and this book will, on this account, continue valuable far beyond the year for which the almanac is good. You should have these records in your home. It is a very convenient way of preserving them. The Annual will be mailed to any address on receipt of five cents, fifteen cents for the two, the new and the old.

The Work in Dayton

The report of the National Mission Board which appeared in last week's paper is quite encouraging so far as contributions are concerned. There is, however, one feature about it which is not just exactly as it ought to be. We refer to the work in Dayton, which, so far as contributions are concerned, seems to have been entirely neglected. Brethren, this is not quite right in our way of looking at it. Dayton is one of the most promising fields for mission work in the brotherhood. There is probably not another city in the land where as much good can be done with the same amount of money. The mission there is well established, is under the care of the National Mission Board, and therefore deserves the support of the brotherhood along with the other missions. We trust contributors will remember this and not leave Dayton in the cold altogether.

Demonstrated One Thing

The missionary and Bible meetings recently held at three different places in the Illiokota district have demonstrated this one thing, that it would pay the church to keep a man in the field regularly to look after its interests. The amount of money raised in these meetings in cash and in pledges as reported ought to decide this matter. But it is not only the money raised, but the influence of these meetings on the future work of the church in that district that must be taken into consideration. A field secretary is what the Mission Board needs, one who will organize the church for systematic giving and methods of church work. He could at the same time look after the other interests of the church. It is well at least that we should think about these things. What we need first of all is thorough instruction in the Bible. Our people are willing, most of them are, to do their duty, but they need to be taught what that duty is. We have been a Bible alone people for a long time, yet we do not know all about the Word as yet. There are many great and rich truths of which many of our people are yet ignorant and we need instruction.

Do People Read It?

Read what? The EVANGELIST. Some do and some do not. We are still receiving dollar bills for a year's subscription to the paper. Is it possible that all the notices that have appeared at different times should have been overlooked by so many of our readers? It is a sad commentary on the way many people read the church paper. The matter has been explained time and again, and the conditions set forth in language which it seems to us should not have been misunderstood. Here it is again: Until November 1, 1897, the paper was one dollar to new subscribers. After that time $1.50. Those whose subscriptions expired on or before November 1, 1897, could renew at one dollar, because they paid $1 50 last year. Those whose subscriptions expired after November 1, 1867, are charged $1.50, because last year they paid but one dollar. This plan adopted by the Board was fair to all as it gave each one, new and old, an opportunity to get the paper at one dollar.

Why Is It So?

Of the EVANGELIST subscriptions which expired January 1, 1898, less than one fourth have thus far renewed, and many of these have not sent remittances with their subscriptions. This does not mean that the subscription list will fall off to any great extent. There have been but very few notices of discontinuance thus far, less than one in forty. But did not the Board have reasons to expect a much larger number of renewals during the month of January than have thus far been received? It is to be hoped that pastors will present this matter to their people and urge the importance of immediate renewal. The success of the Publishing House as well as other enterprises of the church, depends very largely on the interest pastors manifest in the work. Ministers of the gospel are, by virtue of their office, authorized agents for all the enterprises of the church, and as such they should avail themselves of every opportunity to further the cause of the church's interest. They are the recognized leaders of their people and this work is very largely in their hands. The Publication Board requests all concerned to push the canvass for the paper as rapidly as possible.

Two of a Kind

From a senator to a prize fight reporter was a long step down, yet this step was made by ex-senator Ingalls a little less than one year ago. What shall we say, however, of a minister who joins John L. Sullivan in reporting a prize fight for a New York paper? This is just what a Presbyterian minister did, and the paper referring to him editorially says:

> After due consultation with the elders of his church, the Rev. R. H. P. Miles, of the Ravenswood Presbyterian Church, decided to attend and report the Long Island City prize fight for the —— ——. Mr. Miles's decision must be universally praised. His own words give his reason. He felt that the truth should be known, and that thro the —— —— he could preach a sermon to more than a million souls. Honor to the courageous clergyman!

And is that minister really deserving of honor because he has dishonored the name of Christ? If a man wants to become a prize fight reporter there is no one to keep him from it, but let the church see to it that it is not done in the name of Christ and in the interest of truth. Decent ministers and honorable laymen should refuse to recognize men who will thus bring shame and disgrace upon the name which they revere. "Step down and out," is what the church ought to say to that man. He is out of his element in the church.

Appointment to Meet God

Is there any excuse for tardiness at church? What object can there be in being late at divine service? With many people it is a mere habit, and it need not be said that it is a bad habit. It is a great annoyance to the preacher, to Sabbath-school superintendent and teachers, to the leader of the young people's meeting, to have people come to service late. If we would remember that to worship God is to wait upon the Lord, and not to keep him waiting; that a meeting house is a meeting place with God, and that when we are late we keep God waiting for us instead of our waiting upon God, if these